

Claims

What is Claimed is:

- 10056969-012402
- 1 <sup>50</sup> 1. A method for automated input/output job distribution, comprising  
2 the steps of:  
3 detecting an input/output job at a consumable handling device;  
4 reading a machine readable data located on an input/output job cover  
5 page means by a self-propelled, mobile input/output bin; and  
6 determining an owner of the input/output job through the use of the  
7 bin.
- 1 2. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said detecting step is further  
2 comprised of the step of:  
3 contacting a data center of said input/output job.
- 1 3. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said detecting step is further  
2 comprised of the step of:  
3 scanning/monitoring said consumable handling device to detect said  
4 input/output job.
- 1 4. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said consumable handling  
2 device is further comprised of:  
3 a printer.
- 1 5. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said consumable handling  
2 device is further comprised of:  
3 a printing device.
- 1 6. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said method is further  
2 comprised of the step of:  
3 outfitting said bin with a locking means.

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1           7. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said detecting step is further  
2 comprised of the step of:  
3           wirelessly detecting said input/output job.

1           8. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said cover page means is  
2 further comprised of:  
3           a banner page.

1           9. A method for passively automating an input/output job distribution,  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3           detecting an input/output job at a consumable handling device;  
4           contacting a self-propelled, mobile input/output bin; and  
5           sending said bin to said consumable handling device to read a machine  
6 readable data located on a job cover page means in order to transfer said job  
7 to an owner of said job through the use of said bin.

1           10. The method, as in Claim 9, wherein said consumable handling  
2 device is further comprised of:  
3           a printer.

1           11. The method, as in Claim 9, wherein said consumable handling  
2 device is further comprised of:  
3           a printing device.

1           12. The method, as in Claim 9, wherein said method is further  
2 comprised of the step of:  
3           outfitting said bin with a locking means.

1           13. The method, as in Claim 9, wherein said detecting step is further  
2 comprised of the step of:  
3           wirelessly detecting said input/output job.

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1           14. The method, as in Claim 9, wherein said cover page means is  
2 further comprised of:  
3           a banner page.

1           15. A method for actively automating an input/output job distribution,  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3           scanning/monitoring a consumable handling device by a self-propelled,  
4 mobile input/output bin;  
5           detecting an input/output job at said consumable handling device by  
6 said bin; and  
7           determining an owner of said job by reading machine readable data  
8 located on a cover page means of said job through the use of said bin.

1           16. The method, as in Claim 15, wherein said consumable handling  
2 device is further comprised of:  
3           a printer.

1           17. The method, as in Claim 15, wherein said consumable handling  
2 device is further comprised of:  
3           a printing device.

1           18. The method, as in Claim 15, wherein said method is further  
2 comprised of the step of:  
3           outfitting said bin with a locking means.

1           19. The method, as in Claim 15, wherein said detecting step is  
2 further comprised of the step of:  
3           wirelessly detecting said input/output job.

1           20. The method, as in Claim 15, wherein said cover page means is  
2 further comprised of:  
3           a banner page.